THE EXCITER

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OCTOBER CLUB MEETING PROGRAMS
8 P.M. AT THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE PERRY SHANKLE CO., 1801 S. FLORES

FRIDAY, OCT. 7
ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Due to several other activities which conflicted with the regular election meeting, it was postponed until this evening, so make plans to attend and vote for the candidate of your choice. (Where have I heard that before?) The usual door prizes, donated by our loyal advertisers, will be distributed.

DOOR PRIZES

Door prizes distributed at the Sept. 16 meeting included these: $5.00 gift certificate from Modern Radio, won by Ray W5HHE; $2.50 from Radio & TV Parts, Lew, K5RBA; $2.50 from Sherman Electronics, Fred, K5RNO; $2.50 from Bill Case Records, Gene, W5EJT; and Irving's Printed CirKit of the month by Ralph, W5THU. Come on out to the meetings and get your share of the loot.

DX NOTES

September was a month of ups and downs for DX. The first part saw propagation conditions so bad and the bands so dead that W5EJT complained he couldn't even hear his own signal! But, happily, late September brought excellent conditions, with solid ten meter openings to all continents, fifteen open until midnight, and twenty meters hot around the clock. Roddy, K5BGB, reported a raft of new ones including such goodies as VR1D, W2AYN/EP, and 3A2BW. Most of the local gang snagged Gus, M1/-W4BPD in San Marino for a rare new one!

Well it behooves DX'ers to "make hay while the sunspots" shine, The maximum usable frequency (MUF) is due for a drastic shrinkage in the coming years. A fine article by W3ASK in Sept. CQ tells what's coming up propagation-wise. The present sunspot cycle reached a record high number of 203 in March, 58. Solar activity has declined steadily since with this month's number being 106. The present cycle's minimum will come late in 1965 with a predicted sunspot number of 5.

What does all of this mean? First of all it means that ten and fifteen meters and then finally twenty meters will become increasingly dead as we near the sunspot minimum. Ten and fifteen will remain dead, DX-wise, for month after month with only sporadic-E openings or scatter to break the silence. Twenty will be open during the daylight hours, but DX signals may be weak and fluttery when heard. (And they won't hear you if you have less than a KW., and 4 or 5 El. beam. —Ed.)

FRIDAY, OCT. 21
ARRL, AREC ADDRESS

This evening we are pleased to have with us two representatives of the ARRL, Roy Eggleston, W5QEM, South Texas SCM, and Dr. R. O. Best, W5QKF, the SEC. They will speak on ARRL activities and membership, and in particu ar on emergency communication. Those of you associated with the RACES program, as well as anyone wanting to know more about ARRL, are particularly invited.

Editors W5, VPQ, TSE, EJT, and K5OPT
VHF Editor W5LFM
DX Editor W5LGG
Mobile Editor W5EJT
Advertising Mgr. K5VCR
Circulation Mgr. K5OPT
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THE SAN ANTONIO RADIO CLUB W5SC
W5FND, Pres. W5DKF, V.P.
W5HHE, Sec. W5FGA, Treas.
W5DKF, Program chairman

Well then, what about 40 and 80? (those are DX hands???-yes, Junior!) Here the picture brightens. As the MUF declines, so does absorption and the atmospheric noise level. Forty will be the leading DX band in 1965, and as any of us old fogies can tell you, it's a good one too! Strong signals from all over the world will be heard at night, and it's a surety that many forty-meter rotary beams will spring up. Eighty will have its share of DX too. I once worked thirty countries in four continents in one weekend during the 1953-54 sunspot minimum using 150 watts and a vertical on eighty C. W. So while on ten meter beams gather dust in 1965, we can give the vee's and verticals a real workout down on the "long waves". Once the sunspot low is reached, the buildup to the next peak will come much more quickly than the present slow decline.

73 & DX
Len, W5LGG

VHF AND UP

The opening of the fall trans-equatorial (TE) season to So. America on 50 mc. appears to have begun. On 8 Sept. 60, K5OOJ reports hearing LU3DCA and LU4DFN from about 1930-2230 CST. XE1GE, Mexico City, was worked by OOJ, and GE reports the So. America stations were booming in off the back of his beam.

On 11 Sept. 60, Es to California took place and they were working the boys down south in droves via Es. Note that in both openings there

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was Es associated with TE. Both aurora and TE activity are expected to pick up as the sunspot cycle rapidly declines.

The maximum of Sunspot Cycle 19 was reached in March 58 and the minimum is expected to be reached in late 1965. This means for certain that as time passes, the various DX bands will drop out. First 6, then 10, then 15, and even 20 meters will feel the kicking of the dying Cycle 19.

Some fellows, however, do not let the lack of solar activity get in their way. They do work which provides info for both Len Parsons' DX column and the VHF column. By now most everyone has heard the news that amateur 2-way communication via the moon was made using 1296 mc. on 21 July 60. The people involved in the history making event were W1BU and W6HB. The signals travelled almost half a million miles to cover the 2700 miles, coast to coast.

Not to be outdone by themselves, the team of KH6UK-W6NLZ went to work on 432 mc. to contact each other by surface duct. On 20 July 60, NLZ heard UK over the 2500 mile water path. Two-way contact was not established due to a hard-to-find trouble in the 416B pre-amp of KH6UK. But you can bet they'll try again and succeed.

Will the 41 mc. TV signals from Europe make it across the pond again this year to Texas? Mid-October should start to tell the story. Tune in and hear a happy beginning.

Have you heard the one about the chap named Roland Stone who wanted so much to become a ham but he could never master the code? It was later explained that his CW difficulty was due to the fact that "A Roland Stone gathers no Morse." And so it rolls! (Apologies to Bomac Tubes!).

Cal Graf, W5LFM
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FRED K5ENK PAUL K5OHG JIM K5TYI

TYLRUN

San Antonio will be the site for the sixth Anniversary of the Texas YL Round Up Net. The Alamo YLs are inviting not only all members of the net to the party, but also all licensed YLs are invited to attend the gathering.

The Belevedere Motor Hotel will be the headquarters and the luncheon and business meeting will be held there Saturday, Nov. 5th. Registration for the luncheon is $2.25 and should be mailed before October 25th to: Ruth Jank, K5OPT, 100 N. Winston Lane, San Antonio 13, Texas.

Activities are planned for the girls arriving Friday evening. So if you have never been to an all "Lady Hams Convention" you don't know what you are missing. Make your plans now to be there and win one of the many prizes the ALAMO YLs have been making and the merchants have been donating for the occasion. We guarantee the only thing you will be out of is a nights sleep.

See you in "Old San Antonio" Nov. 5th.

CAVE EXPLORERS

We woul like here to publicly thank Gene, W5EJT, and Ray, W5HHE, as well as Ruth, K5OPT, and Charlie, K5VCR, for their handling of the communications associated with the unfortunate death of the Boy Scout that occurred at the Devil's Sinkhole, Labor Day weekend. Their adept handling of the situation was appreciated both by those associated with the Scout group, and the amateur fraternity. Amateur participation in an emergency situation such as this contributes immensely to the public acceptance of and goodwill towards our hobby.

NEW CERTIFICATES

When you work 5 members of the following you can obtain a certificate from the Texas REbels. Members are K5ABS, BPG, QOZ, PFG, YCZ, UFB, GDH, K5VQG, & W5OHF.

Another unusual certificate is the "Three Sisters" which is offered when you work all three sisters, W7CSZ Ethel, K7DCI Ollie, & K6HAT Etta.

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